

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/621,408

Applicant(s)

LOWRY, CHARLES ANDREW

Examiner

Matthew O Savage

Art Unit

1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 4-15-04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are claim 11 renumbered as claim 1.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 July 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Matthew O Savage
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1723

With respect to the amendment filed on 4-15-04, the amendments to the specification and the drawings have not been entered.

The new claim submitted in the amendment filed on 4-15-04 has been renumbered as claim 11.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Charles A. Lowry on 6-22-04.

11. (currently amended) An apparatus for connecting a liquid filter to a liquid source and for separating volatile contaminants from the liquid, comprising:
a cylindrical block including a first end and a second end and a radially ~~outer~~
outer peripheral surface;
a central outlet bore extending from the first end to the second end of the block;
an inlet passage radially spaced apart and isolated from the central ~~bore~~ bore
and extending from the first end to the second end of the block;
an annular evaporation channel formed ~~intre~~ into the first end of block and
located radially outwardly from the inlet passage and having a base surface spaced
from the second end of the block;

a cover on the first end of the block for closing the evaporation channel;

a purified liquid outlet channel adjacent the base of the annular channel and extending the outer peripheral surface of the block;

a metering orifice isolated from the inlet passage and extending from the central bore to a portion of the annular channel that is spaced above the purified liquid outlet channel such that a thin film of oil is formed on a surface of the evaporation channel;

a vapor vent channel extending from part of the annular channel that is positioned above the purified liquid outlet channel and extending to an outer peripheral surface of the block;

whereby the first end of the block is attached to the liquid source such that a contaminated liquid is directed into the inlet passage and purified liquid is returned to the source via the central outlet bore, whereby the second end of the block is attached to an end of the liquid filter such that contaminated liquid is directed into the filter and partially purified liquid is directed from the filter into the central outlet bore, whereby partially purified liquid from the central outlet bore is directed into the annular evaporation chamber via the metering orifice, whereby volatile contaminants are separated from the partially purified oil in the evaporation chamber, and whereby purified oil exits the evaporation chamber via the purified liquid outlet and volatile contaminants exit the evaporation chamber via the vapor vent channel.

On line 7 of page 12 of the specification, "24" has been changed to -26--;

On line 16 of page 13 of the specification, "38" has been changed to -22--;

On line 3 of page 17 of the specification, "16" has been changed to --18--.

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant:

The lead line for reference number 16 added to point out the lower seal in FIG. 16;

The lead line for reference number 40 must be corrected to point out the attachment structure between the lower end of the block and upper end of the filter in FIG. 16.

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

De Sylva is considered the closest prior art (see FIG. 4), however, the reference fails to teach or suggest the instantly claimed relation of

a cylindrical block including a first end and a second end and a radially outer peripheral surface;

a central outlet bore extending from the first end to the second end of the block;

an inlet passage radially spaced apart and isolated from the central bore and extending from the first end to the second end of the block;

an annular evaporation channel formed into the first end of block and located radially outwardly from the inlet passage and having a base surface spaced from the second end of the block;

a cover on the first end of the block for closing the evaporation channel;
a purified liquid outlet channel adjacent the base of the annular channel and extending the outer peripheral surface of the block;
a metering orifice isolated from the inlet passage and extending from the central bore to a portion of the annular channel that is spaced above the purified liquid outlet channel such that a thin film of oil is formed on a surface of the evaporation channel;
and a vapor vent channel extending from part of the annular channel that is positioned above the purified liquid outlet channel and extending to an outer peripheral surface of the block as recited in instant claim 11.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew O Savage whose telephone number is (571) 272-1146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 6:00am-2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda W. Walker can be reached on (571) 272-1151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Matthew O. Savage
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